



New Internationalist

The people, the ideas, the action in the fight for global justice

THE MINE THAT KILLS

New Internationalist Easier English

Ready Upper Intermediate Lesson

This lesson:



Speaking: discussing positives and negatives and predicting answers to questions

Reading: scan reading and reading for detail

Vocabulary: create and use phrases

Writing: planning paragraphs and writing a formal letter



Mining:

- ▣ Is it good or bad for the world for the world?
- ▣ Is it good or bad for the people who live near the mine?

Discuss – think of as many good and bad points as you can

True or false? – what do you think?

- 1/ BHP Billiton is the world's biggest mining company.
- 2/ The Cerro Matoso mine in Colombia exports ferronickel.
- 3/ Many health problems started 10 years after the mine began working.
- 4/ Among the health problems are: skin problems, cancer and miscarriages.
- 5/ BHP Billiton accepts responsibility for this.
- 6/ 49 people who have led environmental and human rights protests have been killed in the last 8 years.

Now scan this article quickly – 3
minutes? – to check your
answers :

https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/%E2%80%98This_mine_is_killing_us_slowly%E2%80%99



**Vocabulary- match to create phrases
eg. 'melt nickel' , then use the phrases
to discuss mining in Colombia:**

1/ melt

2/ give a

3/ genetic

4/ legal

5/ coal-fired

6/ riot

7/ necessary

8/ traditional

9/ indigenous

10/armed

a) equipment

b) forces

c) nickel

d) power plants

e) police

f) communities

g) concession

h) proceedings

i) methods

j) changes

**Now read again to find the answers
to these questions:**

**1/ Find 3 benefits from
the Cerro Matoso mine.**



2/ Find 5 negative effects from the mine.

**3/ Find 2 ways the local people have
tried to protest.**

**4/ Find 3 other non-mining problems
that are mentioned.**

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Writing

Working in small groups, use your answers to these questions to plan a 6-paragraph, formal letter to the CEO of BHP Billiton:

1: We are writing in order to

2: We are aware of several benefits from the mine..

3: However, we have also seen ...

4: We know that some action has already ...

5: In addition, we have heard that ..

6: We would, thus, like you to ...

Now write the letter!



Homework:

Read the original article – you will understand it now as you have read the Easier English version:

<https://newint.org/features/2016/11/01/we-are-slowly-being-killed-by-this-mine/>

And other articles about Colombia and protesting etc:

https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Issue_497

